

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /033 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7063
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0109

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, CY, SU

SUBJECT: GOC/USSR AVIATION TALKS

1. THREE-MAN SOVIET DELEGATION VISITED NICOSIA THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS EXPANSION OF AIR LINKS BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND CYPRUS. DELEGATION WAS LED BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION SERGEI PAVLOV. DISCUSSIONS REPORTEDLY CENTERED ON SOVIET INTEREST IN ENSURING THAT CYPRUS WILL ACCEPT INCREASED NUMBER OF FLIGHTS INTO LARNACA SHOULD FURTHER DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS WITH EGYPT NECESSITATE DROPPING CAIRO AS PRINCIPAL STAGING AREA FOR FLIGHTS TO EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. AGREEMENT IS ALSO BEING SOUGHT FOR FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS TO CARRY PASSENGERS FROM CYPRUS TO AEROFLOT STOPS IN AFRICA.

2. PROTOCOL SIGNED AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT JANUARY 13 PROVIDES FOR "FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION" IN AIR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. UNDER TERMS OF PROTOCOL CYPRUS GRANTED AEROFLOT COMMERCIAL RIGHTS TO INCREASE ITS REGULAR FLIGHTS TO AND FROM LARNACA AND TO POINTS BEYOND CYPRUS. NUMBER OF FLIGHTS WAS NOT REVEALED. DIRGEN COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS KAZAMIAS WHO SIGNED FOR GOC SAID PROTOCOL CONSTITUTES EXTENSION OF TERMS OF CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE COUNTRIES IN 1964.

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3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS KEPT A CLOSE WATCH ON THE SOVIET-CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROBE FOR DETAILS. TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH REPORT FROM A RELIABLE AMERICAN COMMERCIAL SOURCE THAT SOVIETS ARE SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A REFUELING FACILITY OF THEIR OWN AT LARNACA AIRPORT, THE PAVLOV

VISIT TRIGGERED OUR SUSPICIONS THAT USSR IS SEEKING TO
ENHANCE COMMERCIAL AIRLIFT CAPABILITY INTO ETHIOPIA
AND OTHER AFRICAN POINTS.
CRAWFORD

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